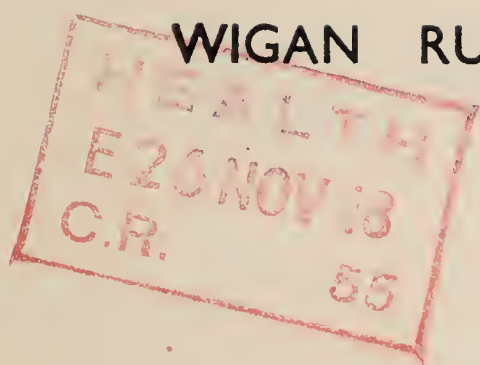


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WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



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# *Annual Report*

of the


*Medical Officer of Health*

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FOR THE YEAR 1947



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# Wigan Rural District Council

*Chairman :*

R. I. RANDALL, ESQ., J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

E. T. HAMPSON, ESQ., J.P.

*Councillors :*

J. H. GILL, ESQ.

H. R. DEARDEN, ESQ.

J. K. HODGE, ESQ.

C. BAYBUTT, ESQ.

*Clerk :*

ROBERT GASKELL, A.L.A.A.

*Staff Public Health Department :*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
DOROTHY M. JAMES, M.D., D.P.H.

*Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

J. HOLDING.

*Water Inspector :*

W. R. WRIGHT.

Bank Chambers,

Wallgate,

Wigan, 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan  
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for the year 1947.

As in the previous year, the Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular. I wish to thank you for your very kindly interest taken in all matters affecting the Health and Sanitation of the District. I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. J. Holding and other members of the Staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DOROTHY M. JAMES,

M.D., D.P.H.

# Wigan Rural District Council

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, mid-1947 .....	7,626
Acreage of Townships .....	11,696
Number of Inhabited Houses .....	2,280
Rateable Value .....	£42,874
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .....	£166

## VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.		M.	F.	Total.
Live Births	(Legitimate) .....	81	62	143
	(Illegitimate) ....	1	4	5
Total .....		82	66	148
Stillbirths	(Legitimate).....	2	2	4
	(Illegitimate) ....	—	—	—
Total .....		2	2	4

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..... 19.4  
 Live Birth Rate for England and Wales ..... 20.5  
 Total Birth Rate (Live and Still) ..... 19.9  
 Number of Stillbirths was 4, compared with 3 in 1946. The  
 Total Number of Live Births was 148, compared with 131 in 1946,  
 the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 was therefore, 19.4 for 1947, com-  
 pared with 17.4 in 1946.

Mean of 5 years 1942-1946 was .....	17.3
Year 1946 was .....	17.4
Year 1947 was .....	19.4
Increase in 1947 on 5 years' average was .....	2.1
Increase in 1947 on 1946 was .....	2.0

### DEATHS.

There were 88 deaths, 46 Males and 42 Females, during 1947  
 compared with 88, 52 Males and 36 Females, in 1946.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population .....	11.5
Death Rate for England and Wales .....	12.0
Mean of 5 years 1942-1946 .....	11.9
Year 1946 .....	11.7

Year 1947.....	11.5
Decrease in 1947 on 5 years' average.....	0.4
Decrease in 1947 on 1946 .....	0.2
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—	
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis .....	Nil.
Other Maternal Causes .....	Nil.
Total Maternal mortality .....	Nil.
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births .....	Nil.
Mean of 5 years 1942–46 .....	6.12
Year 1946.....	7.63
Year 1947.....	Nil.
Decrease in 1947 on 5 years' average.....	6.12
Decrease in 1947 on 1946 .....	7.63
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still)	
births .....	Nil.
Mean of 5 years 1942–46 per 1,000 total (live and	
still births .....	6.01
Year 1946.....	7.46
Year 1947.....	Nil.
Decrease in 1947 on 5 years' average.....	6.01
Decrease in 1947 on 1946 .....	7.46

**CANCER.**—8 deaths, 3 Males and 5 Females, occurred in 1947, compared with 10 deaths, 5 Males and 5 Females in 1946.

Death Rate from Cancer per 1,000 estimated	
population .....	1.04
Mean of 5 years 1942–46 .....	1.48
Year 1946.....	1.33
Year 1947.....	1.04
Decrease in 1947 on 5 years' average.....	0.44
Decrease in 1947 on 1946 .....	0.29

**INFANTILE DEATHS.**—9 Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (4 males, 5 females) occurred in 1947, compared with 3 in 1946. All were Legitimate.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births .....	60
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	62
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.
The Rate for England and Wales of all Infants per	
1,000 live births was .....	41



Mean of 5 years 1942-1946 per 1,000 live births	42
Year 1946.....	22
Year 1947.....	60
Increase in 1947 on 5 years' average .....	18
Increase in 1947 on 1946 .....	38
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—	

	Males.	Females
Measles (all ages) .....	—	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	—	—
Diphtheria .....	1	—
Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age)	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ....	2	—
Syphilitic Diseases .....	1	—
Influenza .....	—	—
Cancer, all sites .....	3	5
Diabetes .....	—	—
Intra-Cranial vascular lesions ....	6	3
Heart Disease .....	12	15
Other Diseases of the Circulatory system .....	1	1
Bronchitis .....	4	3
Pneumonia .....	3	2
Nephritis .....	1	2
Puerperal and post-abortionals sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes .....	—	—
Premature Birth .....	3	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	—	1
Suicide.....	2	—
Road Traffic Accident .....	2	1
Other Violent Causes .....	4	1
All other causes .....	—	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All Causes .....	46	42

The Number of Deaths in each Township was as follows :—

Shevington .....	27
Wrightington .....	25
Parbold .....	22
Haigh .....	8
Dalton.....	4
Worthington .....	2

88

Notifiable Disease during the year 1947.

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	Over 65-	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	9			1			3	4	1					4		
Measles	53	1	4	5	6	12	22	1		1		1				
Pneumonia	7							1		4			2			5
Whooping Cough	7			3	2	1	1									1
Diphtheria	1		1											1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	4				2		1	1						4		
TOTALS	81	1	5	9	10	13	27	7	1	5		1	2	9	1	7

Distribution over the several Parishes was as follows :—

Shevington :

Measles .....	35 cases
Whooping Cough .....	4 cases
Scarlet Fever.....	1 case
Diphtheria .....	1 case
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	1 case

42 cases

Wrightington :

Measles .....	10 cases
Scarlet Fever.....	3 cases
Pneumonia .....	2 cases
Whooping Cough .....	2 cases

17 cases

Haigh :

Measles .....	7 cases
Pneumonia .....	4 cases
Whooping Cough .....	1 cases

12 cases



Parbold :	Scarlet Fever.....	4 cases
	Pneumonia .....	1 case
	Acute Poliomyelitis .....	2 cases

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7 cases

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Worthington :	Measles .....	1 case
	Acute Poliomyelitis .....	1 case

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2 cases

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Dalton :	Scarlet Fever.....	1 case
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DIPHTHERIA.—There was one case of Diphtheria notified occurring in a child  $1\frac{1}{4}$  years of age.

Child taken ill 10 hours before death—said to have been drowsy and vomited. The doctor was called in and ordered immediate removal to hospital. Child died shortly after admission.

The child had received 2 doses of APT, but the second dose had been given only a few weeks previously, so that there had probably been insufficient time for immunity to develop.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.—The immunisation of children against diphtheria was continued during the year 1947. The campaign is still being pressed with vigour. School children are treated at the Schools with the co-operation of the Head Teachers, while the pre-school children are treated either at the Schools or at the Child Welfare Centre. The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agent is Alum precipitated toxoid in doses of 0.2 c.c., followed by 0.5 c.c., a month later. At the age of 5 years a further dose of 0.5 c.c. is given to keep up the child's immunity.

Total number of children immunised since the commencement of the Scheme in October, 1940 :—

Ages	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	Total
Under 1 year	3	—	1	1	2	6	25	38
1 year	26	28	53	25	34	44	37	247
2 years	30	15	16	8	7	13	11	100
3 „	34	20	15	1	1	10	4	85
4 „	26	23	17	2	—	5	1	74
5 „	90	34	11	6	5	3	3	152
6 „	69	15	11	2	6	7	1	111
7 „	64	6	7	—	2	10	3	92
8 „	48	7	4	—	—	16	1	76
9 „	57	8	3	2	—	2	—	72
10 „	45	5	1	—	—	4	—	55
11 „	48	6	—	—	—	3	—	57
12 „	45	7	2	—	—	1	—	55
13 „	34	2	3	—	—	2	1	42
14 „	2	—	3	—	—	1	—	6
	621	176	147	47	57	127	87	1,262

11 Children received a third injection during 1947, bringing the total to 220.

32.8% of children under 5 years had been immunised at the end of 1947 and 77.3% between 5 and 15 years.

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Wrightington .....	135	51	35	14	19	52	29
Dalton .....	40	8	—	1	1	7	5
Parbold .....	75	16	17	4	12	5	11
Shevington .....	332	82	83	27	18	56	36
Worthington .....	23	9	7	1	1	6	2
Haigh .....	16	10	5	—	6	1	4
	<hr/> 621	<hr/> 176	<hr/> 147	<hr/> 47	<hr/> 57	<hr/> 127	<hr/> 87
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS.—The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows:—

#### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

##### NEW CASES.

##### DEATHS.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
20	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65-over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 1	<hr/> —	<hr/> 1	<hr/> —
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The County Council provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Wigan Rural District is in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctor or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System was 0.13.

The mean of 5 years, 1942 to 1946 was .....	0.26
The year 1946 was .....	0.26
The year 1947 was .....	0.13
Decrease on the 5 years' average was .....	0.13
Decrease in 1946 on 1947 was .....	0.13

## SCHOOLS.

A School Clinic is provided by the County Council at Ashfield House, Standish, where children may attend for inspection and treatment of minor ailments, and an Ophthalmic Session is held once a fortnight. The Clinic has been very well attended.

The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows:—

Monday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.	School Minor Ailment Clinic Medical Officer and Nurse attends.
Thursday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.	Minor Ailment Clinic (Nurse only).
Wednesday (fortnightly) 9-30 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Routine Medical Inspections of children in the Schools are carried out by the Medical Officer in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer of Health. Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer of Health, the School Teachers and the School Attendance Officer, the latter supplies a weekly return of the children who are absent from School through sickness. The County Health Visitor follows up the cases for whom the Medical Officer recommends treatment at the time of the School inspections. The Nurse also visits the parents to give advice to cases in which the standard of cleanliness, etc., is unsatisfactory. Meals are now provided for the children in all the Schools.

SCHOOL CLOSURES.—It has not been necessary to close any School during the past year.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**—An Infant Welfare Clinic is provided by the County Council at the Parish Rooms, Shevington. The Medical Officer attends one Tuesday a month, and the Health Visitor each Tuesday, from 1-30 to 4 p.m.

The Milk Officer also attends the Clinic on the above dates for the purpose of distributing Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices, under the Government Scheme.

The County Council Health Visitor, who is also the School Nurse, undertakes the visiting of all newly-born infants in the district. The Ante-Natal Clinic at Ashfield House, Standish, serves the residents of the Wigan Rural District, and I am pleased to report that it has been very well attended. The Clinic is held every Monday, with the exception of the first Monday in the month, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Midwives attend each session.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—A good supply of water is available in all Parishes, though there are still isolated houses which have their own private supplies.

The Parishes obtain supplies from the following sources :—

HAIGH .....	Blackrod U.D.C	Upland
WORTHINGTON .....	Standish U.D.C.	Surface
SHEVINGTON .....	Standish U.D.C.	Water
PARBOLD .....	Own Supply Deep Well	Water
WRIGHTINGTON .....	Own Supply Deep Well	Water
	and Spring Water.	
DALTON .....	Wrightington	do.



# Table showing Consumption by Trade and Domestic Users.

Parish	Estimated “ Water ” Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of “ Water ” Population.		
		Domestic	Trade	Supplied to other Districts	Domestic	Trade	Total
WRIGHTINGTON	2,550	49,767	17,208	Bispham3293	19.52	6.75	26.27
SHEVINGTON ....	3,100	62,569	11,000	....	20.18	3.89	24.07
PARBOLD ....	950	24.238	3,250	....	25.51	3.42	28.93
HAIGH ....	770	10,490	22,572	To Aspull 17,254	13.62	29.31	42.93
DALTON ....	430	4,763	6,312	....	11.08	14.68	25.76
TOTAL ....	7,800	151,827	60,342	Averages	19.46	7.73	27.19

60,342

Average Daily Total

....

212,169



The following table gives analyses of water supplies :—

Analyses of Water Supplies at 31st December, 1946.			
Parish.	Number of Houses		Total
	On Public Supply	On Private Supplies, Wells etc.	
Dalton ....	106	31	137
Haigh ....	222	1	223
Parbold ....	264	15	279
Shevington ....	892	—	883
Worthington ....	42	10	52
Wrightington ....	632	79	680
Totals ....	2,158	136	2,254

CONVERSIONS.—During the year 10 privy closets were converted to fresh W.C.s and 6 to pails. Movable ashbins were provided to 16 houses to replace ashpits.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions, and all the foregoing have been done in response to informal notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Scavenging of the district is carired out by direct labour, and the Council's own Motor Wagon.

## HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.— Building Development continued on a small scale during the year. Drainage is discharged into Septic Tanks, and the effluent into the nearest watercourse, or in some instances into the Council's Sewer.

NEW BUILDINGS.—During 1947, 19 new dwelling-houses were erected in the Rural District.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Lime washing is carried out twice during the year or as often as may be necessary. The number of Cowkeepers who are Accredited Producers is 9.

MILK SAMPLING.—Samples are taken quarterly by the Sanitary Inspector of all milk in the district supplied to School Children.

No. of Dairy Farms in the District .....	86
Approximate number of Cows .....	450
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms) .....	140
Number on Register .....	140
Number of Inspections during the year .....	80
Dairymen other than Cowkeepers .....	6
Number on Register .....	6

MEAT INSPECTIONS.—There are two registered slaughterhouses with shops attached. Periodic inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

DOROTHY M. JAMES,  
Medical Officer of Health.

